methasone and its salts and when the report of BICP was received by his Ministry based on which prices have been fixed on 2nd January, 1989?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGALRAO): (a) and (b) The following are the members of the Committee which heard the company:

(1)	Shri M.S. Murthy	Adviser (Chemicals), Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals.
(2)	Shri C. Radhakrishnamurthy	Jt. Director (Cost), Bureau of Industrial Costs & Prices.
(3)	Shri R.N. Tandon	Joint Director (Chemicals), Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals

The recommendations of the Committee have been accepted by the Government and the revised prices were notified on 22nd January, 1989.

(c) The following are the prices fixed under DPCO, 1979 in respect of Betamethasone bulk drug and the salts:

	Rs./Gm.
1. Betamethasone Alcohol	113.34
2. Betamethasone 17-Valerate	105.85
3. Betamethasone Di-Sodium Phosphate	126.23

The prices fixed on 2nd January, 1989 are as per the recommendation of the Committee and not the BICP.

Problems of switching equipments

1624. SHRI YALLA SESI BHUSHANA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Department of Telecommunications is facing the problem of switching equipments;

(b) whether the electronic switching system factory established at Mankapur has achieved the target of five lakh lines per year;

(c) what are the reasons for which the second electronic switching system factory could not be set up in Bangalore as decided by Government;

(d) what steps Government propose to take to meet the situation;

(e) whether it is also a fact that nearly two rural automatic exchanges were becoming faulty once a month because of cards becoming faulty; and

(f) what steps are proposed to be taken to improve the working of these rural exchanges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. As per schedule, the factory is to reach the target of five lakh lines per year during 1989-90 only.

(c) The second electronic switching factory was required for the seventh Five Year Plan of Rs. 13000 crores, but the plan was approved only for Rs. 4010 crores. In order to meet the requirement of equipment for this plan, the existing factories were found to be adequate.

(d) The indigenously developed switching system technology is under field trial. All efforts are being made to productionise the C-DOT technology by the end of 1989-90.

(e) No, Sir. Only a few instances of such failures have been reported.

(f) Action has been taken to stock sufficient number of spare printed circuit boards to meet such situations.

Post offices in Villages

1625. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) State-wise number of villages in the country which do not have post offices;

(b) State-wise number of villages having post offices at the end of December,, 1987; and

(c) by when the remaining villages are likely to be provided with post offices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) and (b) The information is furnished in the statement (See below).

(c) There is no proposal to open a post office in every village. Only such villages as fulfill the prescribed norms are considered according to the targets laid down in each Five Year/ Annual Plan. The Seventh Plan (1985—90) envisages opening of Post Offices in about 6,000 villages.

Statement

Post Offices in Villages

Sl.No	State/Union Territory	No. of villages without post offices.	No. of villages having post offices as on 31-12-1987
1	Andhra Pradesh	12718	14,677
2	Assam	18903	3,072
3	Arunachal Pradesh	6026	230
4	Bihar	57157	10,317
5	Gujarat	10505	7,783
6	Goa	223	163
7	Haryana	4598	2,152
8	Himachal Pradesh	14470	2,238
9	Jammu & Kashmir	5180	1,287
10	Karnataka	18834	8,199
11	Kerala	[illegible]	4,086
12	Madhya Pradesh	61828	9,500
13	Mizoram	463	258
14	Maharashtra	29212	10,091
15	Manipur	1501	525
16	Meghalaya	4515	387
17	Nagaland	874	235